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## ANSWER

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Captain *DAMPIER*'s Vindication  
of his Voyage to the *South-Seas*, in the Ship  
*St. George*.

With particular Observations on his ungenerous, false,  
and barbarous Usage to his Ship's Crew.

By *JOHN WELBE*, Midship-Man, on Board Captain  
*DAMPIER*'s Ship.

**S**incerity is the greatest Ornament that belongs to Mankind; and he that is not endow'd with it, ought to be had in no Regard with his Fellow-Creatures. If Three and Two be Five, and Matter of Fact beyond Speculation, I hope this subsequent Discourse will induce all Gentlemen to believe, that what Captain *Dampier* writes, is all scandalous, false, and malicious; and that I am every Hour in the Day ready to justify it to his Face, and stand the Examination with him, either before a Committee of Merchants, or Commanders of Ships.

First, I can't but smile at the Captain's witty (otherwise foolish) Phrase, Mr. *Funnell*'s chymical Relation, not having the least Thought of his ferruginous Compendium, full of Enthusiasms and improbable Stuff, such as no Man yet could ever understand; no, not even the courageous Author himself.

Secondly, As for what Captain *Dampier* says concerning Lieutenant *Huxford*, it is true, Mr. *Morgan* and he had a small Quarrel; but it was in taking Captain *Dampier*'s Part, who were, both after and before we left *Ireland*, at continual Variance. Witness the very first Night we came to Sea, they had such high Words in the Cabin, that Captain *Dampier* call'd to the Master, in order to put the Ship about, and stand in again for *Kingsail*, in order to put him ashore. Now had he put him ashore at *Ireland*, I should not have blam'd him; but this last Quarrel happen'd at the Island of *St. Jago*, one of the *Cape de Verd* Island; and Captain *Dampier* order'd the Portuguese Officer to confine him. And the next Day, Mr. *Huxford* sent

for his Chest and Cloaths, which were sent him. But the Day before we sail'd, he came on Board again, and brought his Chest and Cloaths with him; but as soon as the Captain saw him, he order'd him to go out of the Ship. Mr. Huxford begg'd of him not to be so barbarous, as to turn him ashore amongst a Parcel of Banditties and Negro's; but desir'd him to let him lye in the Long-boat; or he would be contented to go before the Mast, rather than go ashore amongst a Parcel of Heathens. But our Consort's Boat coming on Board, with Lieutenant Stradling, Captain Dampier and he contriv'd together to get Mr. Huxford into his Boat, under a Pretence of carrying him on Board of our Consort, and so to carry him on Board of one of the Portuguese Ships, that lay in the Road: But Mr. Huxford being unwilling to go out of the Ship, Captain Dampier, with his own Hands, took hold of him, and thrust him out of the Ship into Lieutenant Stradling's Boat, who put him on Board a Portuguese Ship in the Road, according to the Contrivance aforesaid; where he remain'd not long, before they turn'd him ashore, and within three Months afterwards miserably ended his Days, partly with Hunger; yet I wonder not, at the Captain's monstrous Barbarity, knowing the like Scene of Cruelty was acted by him, when Commander of the *Roe-Buck*.

Thirdly, As to Mr. James Barnaby, our second Lieutenant, he says, he never disagreed with him; which is false: For being both drunk together in the Cabbin, they quarrell'd, Mr. Morgan being ashore knew nothing of it; upon which Mr. Barnaby desir'd Captain Dampier to give him Leave to take his Chest and Cloaths out of the Ship, and he would go ashore to the Portuguese; and Captain Dampier told him, he might take his Things, and go where he pleas'd. Accordingly the next Day he would have gone ashore; but Captain Dampier would not let him, but took him, and ty'd his Hands behind him. But towards the Evening, one of our Men cut his Hands loose; and about ten at Night, he and eight more of our Men put their Chests and Cloaths in the Pinnace, and desir'd some of the Ship's Company to go in the Boat with them, to bring her back again; which accordingly they did, Captain Dampier being in his Cabbin quite drunk.

Fourthly, He says he mentions only the two Actions of the Voyage, on which depends the Miscarriage of the whole, by the Men's Disorder.

To which I answer, That the Miscarriage of the Voyage depends wholly on the Want of Courage and Conduct in the Commander. As for the French Ship, that we engag'd near the Island *Juan de Fernando's*, 'tis true, we chas'd her all the Afternoon, and fetch'd upon her; but taking her to be an European Ship, (as Captain Dampier says in his own scandalous Vindication) he did not care to engage her, (he believing, that she might have Guns on Board, to which he always had a natural Aversion; and besides, nor knowing how to behave himself, or work his Ship in Time of Engagement, as it plainly appear'd afterwards.) Having chas'd this Ship all Night, in the Morning our Consort came first up with her, and gave her a Broad-side or two; but finding her to be a Ship of greater Force than his was, he soon shear'd off, and shorten'd Sail, which was the Occasion of his falling astern; and now it being left to the courageous Captain Dampier, to dispute the Decision of the Victory, he, as soon as we came within Gun-shot of the Enemy, thought it convenient to shorten Sail; but, by the Perswasions of the Officers, made Sail, and run along her Side, often asking his Men, whether he was near enough? Captain Dampier is pleas'd to say, in his own



own Vindication, that after we had exchange'd several Broadfides with the Enemy, wherein several of our Men was kill'd and wounded, that his Men run down off the Deck, and made nothing of it.

To this I answer, that none of our Men quitted their Posts, during the Time of Engagement, except Captain *Dampier* himself, who the whole Time of Engagement, neither encourag'd his Men, nor gave any regular Command, as is usually required from a Commander at such Times; but stood upon the Quarter-Deck behind a good Barricado, which he had order'd to be made of Beds, Rugs, Pillows, Blankets, &c. to defend him from the small Shot of the Enemy; where he stood with his Fufee in his Hand, and never so much as took Care to have the Quarter-Deck Guns and Pattarero's fir'd. And whereas he says, he could have board'd her, and carry'd her, it is probably true; but he was so far from intending it, that he call'd out to make Sail, for Fear the Enemy should clap us on Board, and take us; which was the first Word that I heard him speak during the Engagement; and so accordingly we sheer'd off from her, and lay by, till our Consort came up; and then both Ships Companies would fain have attack'd her again, knowing, that if we did not take her, that she would discover our being in the Seas, to the Spaniards, which would consequently frustrate our Designs on the Coast of Peru, (as accordingly it afterwards happen'd) but Captain *Dampier* would not consent to it. And afterwards meeting her the second Time off of Lima, all our Men being in Health, and both Ships Companies willing to fight her again, for the aforesaid Reasons, Captain *Dampier* would in no wise consent to it; but calling for the Doctor, ask'd him, *If he could make any more Men, in Case he should engage this Ship, and lose any?* But the Doctor told him, *That he could not make Men; yet he would do his Endeavour to preserve those he had, if he should have any wounded.* Upon which Answer, the Captain order'd us to stand to Sea, and would in no wise consent to hazard his Person in a second Engagement. Upon which, one of our Men told him to his Face, *he was a Coward*, and ask'd him, *Whether he came to those Parts of the World to fight, or not?* And he reply'd, *He did not come to fight; for he knew where to make a Voyage, without fighting.*

Likewise Captain *Dampier* says, in his own Vindication, *That he could have got 500000 L. if he had kept his Boats, which were then lost.* This is but a very slender Excuse of Captain *Dampier's*; for the very next Day after that he refus'd to fight the French Ship off of Lima, we took a Ship of 150 Tuns, which had two Boats; and six Days after, we took another Ship of 200 Tuns, which had a large Boat likewise; so that it could not be for want of Boats, that he fail'd in his Design, but only his not knowing when to light of such a considerable Sum of Money, after he was discover'd on the Coast; (which he must blame himself for.) He likewise says, that *he never heard of any Cochineel, that was on Board the second Prize*; which is false; for I heard several of the Ship's Company tell him of it, and was on Board the Ship my self, and saw some of the Cochineel; but I can give no Account of what Quantity there was on Board, because she was a deep laden Ship, and we were not allow'd the Liberty to search her; so that I cannot tell what more valuable Goods she might have on Board. I would willingly know what Reasons Captain *Dampier* can give for his taking of Prizes, and discharging of them, without ransoming or searching of them.

He allows some Part of the Story of the *Observer's* Ship and the Monkey, to be true; but says, he knew that the Ship's Company had left the

Ship, which if he did, what was his Reason, as soon as we came along her Side, for hailing of her himself, when there was none but his Brother Captain (the Monkey) on Board to answer him?

Likewise he denies, that he order'd the *Indian Canoe*, that hailed us in the Bark, to be fir'd at, which is false; for it was by his own Order; which, together with his ill Conduct in anchoring so often, when there was no Occasion for it, and making so much Delay in that Attempt, that gave the *Spaniards* an Opportunity of discovering us, and so frustrated that Design.

He also pretends, that he had evident Proof, that the Ship which we took in the Bay of *Panama*, loaden with Flower, had landed her Money at *Truxillo*.

To this I answer, that as soon as the Captain of the *Spanish Ship* came on Board of us, being an old Commander, and well acquainted with the Ways of the *Buccaneers of America*, he asked Captain Dampier, *What he was? Whether a Man of War, or a Pirate?* Captain Dampier told him, he had a Commission for what he did; and then asking, *If he had any Money on Board?* To which the *Spanish Captain* answer'd him, *If he found any Money on Board, except what he gave him an Account of, which was but very little, he would give him leave to hang him at the Yard-Arm; for, said he, hearing of your being in the Seas, by the French Ship that you fought with near the Island of Juan de Fernando's, I put all my Money ashore at Truxillo, and so put to Sea, being in Hopes to miss you.* This is all the evident Proof that Captain Dampier had of their Money being landed at *Truxillo*; which is no Proof at all; for the *Spanish Captain* knew very well, that Captain Dampier having a Commission, would be oblig'd, at his Return, to give an Account of his Voyages, and had no Power to punish him, if he told him any Lies, he being a Prisoner of War. But on the contrary, if we had been Pirates, he knew he must expect no Mercy, if he gave any wrong Account. I was on Board this Prize my self several Times, and was told by some of the Prisoners, that there was 80000 Dollars hid in the Run of the Ship; and I sent Captain Dampier Word of it; but I could not have the Liberty to search her, Captain Dampier putting so much Confidence in the *Spanish Captain's Word*.

The Reasons that he gives for his not taking the 50000 Dollars, that was proffer'd him for the Ransom of this Ship, are but very slender and weak. In the first Place, he says, *He had no convenient Road to ride in*; this is a wilful Mistake of Captain Dampier's, for there was Port *Pinar*, in the Latitude of 7 Degrees North, which is a very safe Port, and good Anchoring, it being a Place of no Trade; neither is there any Inhabitants, except a few *Indians*, it being a good Place for Ships to get Wood and Water at. When we took this Prize, we were lying at an Anchor at Point *Garrachina*, which lies in the Latitude of 7 Degrees and 20 Minutes North, which is but 20 Miles distant from Port *Pinar*. I would willingly know what Reason Captain Dampier can give for his not going to this Place?

The next Reason that he gives, is, his Fear of loytering away his Time, and being imbay'd for three or four Months. To this I answer, that had Captain Dampier carry'd the Prize to Port *Pinar*, he need not have lost so much Time, as he did by tarrying where he was with her; for he kept her twelve Days in Custody, when the *Spanish Captain* desir'd but three Days Time to fetch the Ransom, and would have left his two Brothers as Hostages, and the Ship in our Custody, 'till his Return. We were Ships of good Force, considering where we were, having 26 Guns, and our Consort 16 Guns; besides we knew, that there was no Men of War in the Bay of *Panama*, nor within



within 400 Leagues of us; and therefore consequently could not presently have Intelligence of our being in the Bay.

Likewise on the Coast of *Mexico*, we had an Account of four or five Ships, that were at an Anchor in the Port of *Guatalco*, which is a Place of no Force, they were laden with Silks there; yet would the Captain in no wise be perswaded to let us go in and fetch them, which we might very easily have done.

He us'd sometimes to call the Officers aft to a Council of War. Now, it is usual in a Council of War for the youngest Officer to give his Opinion first; but, to the contrary, Captain *Dampier* would always give his own Opinion first; and then, if any of the Officers gave their Opinion contrary to his, he would fly out in a Passion, and say, *If you know better than I do, take you Charge of the Ship*. He was always a Man so much self-conceited, that he would never hear any Reason.

When we met the *Spanish* Man of War, we got to the *Leward* of her, not through our own Miscarriages, (as Captain *Dampier* terms it) but through his own obstinate Humour; for the Night before we engag'd her, she was about a League and an half to the Windward of us, plying to the Windward, as we were; but however, in the Morning we were almost up with her, she, as I believe, not keeping up so close to the Wind as she might have done; for I found afterwards she held as good a Wind as we; but we had the Advantage of fore-reaching on her: We were then about three Leagues off of the Shore, she was about three Points on our Weather-Quarter, above a League distant. About ten in the Morning, Captain *Dampier* order'd us to make ready to tack the Ship: Upon which I ask'd him what he design'd to do? He said, *He would tack the Ship, and see what she was upon*: Which I advis'd him not to tack the Ship, 'till we had the Advantage of the Sea-Breeze, and then we might be sure of getting to the Windward of her; but if we tack'd the Ship then, as he intended to do, we should lose the Advantage of the Sea-Breeze, and be sure to go to the *Leward* of her. But he would not consent to it, but took his own Way, and immediately tack'd the Ship. And as I said, so it happen'd; for we were not able to fetch to the Windward of her. But if Captain *Dampier* had taken my Advice, we had not had any Occasion to have crowded so much, and disabled our Mast, but might easily have taken her, all our Men being in Health, and very willing to engage her.

As for Mr. *Cleppington's* leaving of him, it was Captain *Dampier's* own Fault; for Mr. *Cleppington* and he, having some Words about the Ship's Bottom, she being very much Worm-eaten, the Captain told him, that *he, and as many as were willing to go with him, might take the Bark, and go where they pleas'd, and he would give them Arms*; for, says he, *if I have but twenty or thirty Men, I know where to make a Voyage*: Which was like the rest of his Bravado's. So that Mr. *Cleppington* did but as he bid him; not that I pretend to justify Mr. *Cleppington* in carrying away any of the Owner's Goods, but only blame the Captain for his ill Conduct in being the Occasion of it.

November the 21st. 1704. there being ten of us on Board a small Prize, Captain *Dampier* call'd on Board of us, and told us, that he was going to *Salaazar*, which is about twelve Leagues to the Westward of us, to get some Water, and order'd us to come to him: After which, he made all the Sail he could from us, and soon run us out of Sight. After which, he call'd all Hands on the Deck, and told them, that we that were in the Prize, had  
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run away with her, and so alter'd his Course, and stood to another Place. But it pleas'd God, on the 24th, we happen'd to stand a little nearer the Shore than ordinary, and saw a Ship at an Anchor: Upon which, we being but ten of us, and had eight Prisoners; and the Captain would let us have but four Muskets to defend our selves, we having but ten Days Water on Board when the Captain left us, and about twelve Days Provision, resolv'd to go in and see what Ship she was, which accordingly we did; and, to our great Comfort, found her to be our own Ship, the Ship's Company telling us, that the Captain did it on Purpose to lose us.

Likewise he says, that *when we first saw the Acapulca Ship, she was standing to the Westward*; which is a very great Mistake of Captain Dampier's; for she came from the *Phillipin* Islands, which lyes to the Westward, and was bound for *Acapulca*, which was to the Eastward of us.

Likewise he says, *It was his Mens Fault, that he did not take her*: Which is like the rest of his false Stories; for we were close upon a Wind, having our Larboard Tacks on Board, standing off Shore, the Wind being Easterly, She was about two Leagues a-head of us, a little on our Le-bow, having her Starboard Tacks on Board, standing in for the Shore; and as soon as she came right Head of us, she bore away, and stood directly to us; and a little before she came within Gun-shot of us, which was about ten in the Morning, she hoisted her *Spanish* Ensign, and fir'd a Gun to the *Leward*, as a Friend, believing us to be a *Spanish* Ship. Upon which, the Officers desir'd the Captain to hoist *Spanish* Colours, and answer her with a Gun to the *Leward*; but he would not consent to it, but immediately hoisted an *English* Ensign, and fir'd a Shot at her. She no sooner perceiv'd that we were an Enemy, but immediately sprung her Luff, and hail'd close upon a Wind, and so got to the Windward of us, and got Time to heave all her Boats over Board, and her Goods from betwixt Decks, and made a clear Sui; and got a Teer of Guns out from betwixt Deck, she having but two Guns upon the upper Deck, which were all the Guns that she had clear to fight, when we came first up with her. After which we tack'd, and run along her Side, the Men being resolv'd to clap her on Board; but the Captain was so much against it, that when the Boatswain order'd the Man at the Helm to edge near her, in Order to clap her on Board, the Captain swore *he would shoot the Man at the Helm through the Head, if he offer'd to edge near her*. After which, we having receiv'd several Shot under Water, one of the Men told the Captain, that *our Ship was a sinking, and that now was the Time to clap her on Board*. But instead of clapping her on Board, the Captain cry'd out, *Where is the Canoe? Where is the Canoe?* And was for getting into the Boat to save his Life, which shew'd what Man of Courage and Conduct he was. But we shearing off from her, the Carpenter stopp'd the Leaks. After which, the Captain order'd us to stand off from her, which accordingly we did; all the Ship's Company being exceedingly vex'd at the Captain's ill Conduct. We stood about two Leagues off from her; and then the Captain said, *Well, Gentlemen, I will not say, as Johny Armstrong said, I se lay me down and bleed a while; but I will lay me down, and sleep a while*; but he forgot to wake again, 'till seven or eight a Clock the next Morning. He never so much as left any Orders with the Officers, what they shou'd do; but set a Centry at his Cabbin-Door, that no Body should disturb him. And whereas he says, that the Men lost him in the Night, it is false; for we were in Sight of her the next Morning, and

he



he order'd us to steer away directly from her. Now, if so be that Captain Dampier would have done as the Officers advis'd him, which was, when we first came up with her, to have hoisted *Spanish* Colours, and fir'd a Gun to the Leward, as a Friend, we might have run along her Side, she not suspecting us to be an Enemy; and then hoisted our *English* Colours, and gave her a Broadside, and a Volley of Small-shot; which would have been a great Surprize to them, and so clapp'd her on Board: In the Confusion, we might very easily have taken her.

When we went to take the Town of *St. Mary's*, Captain Stradling would have had Captain Dampier to have given each Man a Dram of Brandy to encourage them. But Captain Dampier answer'd, *If we take the Town, they will get Brandy enough; but if we don't take the Town, I shall want it myself.*

That after having fought the *Acapulco* Ship, all the Ship's Company being tir'd of their bad Fortune, and the Captain's ill Management, (as they term'd it) were for staying no longer in these Seas; but, as long as they had Provisions, was for going to the *East-Indies*, in order to get Home. But the Captain not consenting, saying, that it was too soon for the Season, desir'd them to stay but six Weeks longer, in which Time he hop'd to get something, or, at least, a better Ship; for he protested against venturing in the *St. George*, she being so very leaky; and as for the Bark, she was too little to carry us all (as he said:). To which they consented (I mean the Crew) to stay with him, upon Condition he would stay no longer than the said six Weeks; which he did. After which, we made the most Sail we could towards *Acapulco*, off of which Place we lay to see if we could meet with any Ships coming from the Coast of *Peru*, to trade with the *Acapulco* Ship, as they said was usual; but not meeting with any, we sail'd farther along the Shore, to the Eastward, in order to look into all the Harbours, as we pass'd by: But whether by our Captain's usual Fear of going too near the Shore, or other Reasons known to no Body but himself, we never look'd into any.

*January* the 6th, about three a Clock in the Afternoon the Captain call'd to the Boatswain from the Quarter-Deck, to call all Hands upon Deck, when he ask'd, *Who would stay with him to get Money? For his Part, he came with that Design, and did not intend to go out of these Seas, 'till he got some. And all those that would stay with him, he had them come upon the Quarter-Deck; and those that were for going away, might go forwards, and there was a Bark for them.* Mr. Morgan ask'd him, *Upon what Account he was going? That if he continu'd still upon the same Account he came out upon, he would not leave him; but otherwise he could not stay.* The Captain made Answer, *That then he would not resolve him; but that he was going upon the Queen's Account.* Mr. Morgan answer'd, *That was not the Queen's, but the Owner's. No Matter for that, (said he) I have a Commission.* Upon which, a great many went aft to him, whose Names were taken, though he knew partly most of them before, he having one Clark, and others, who made it their Business, for some Time before, to perswade and sound those who were willing, upon Condition of their sharing all that they got, and nothing for the Owners.

On the 11th of *December*, 1704, the said Clark went on Board the Bark, by the Captain's Orders, where he openly spoke to the Men there, asking, *Who would stay with Captain Dampier? And that they were going now no more upon the same Account that they came out upon; tho' all the World must sup-*  
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port if they were; there was no Need of the Captain's desiring to know then who would stay with him; for if he had a Mind to stay longer than his Promise, no Body could force him, nor them that stay'd with him; on the contrary, those that came away, would be more fearful of leaving him. In short, it is to be much doubted, if those that stay'd with him, whom he calls all Rogues, had not forc'd him away, when they found themselves under the Necessity of surrendering themselves Prisoners, or starving, whether ever he would come for *England*, or not.

But to return, we continu'd sailing along the Shore, 'till the 22d, without seeing any Thing, or looking into any Harbour where we might expect to get something, and so came to an Anchor in the Bay of *Anapala*. In which Time it was continually spoke by those that stay'd with him, that they would take the Money Mr. Morgan had, which was shar'd for the Owners, saying, *It was their free Plunder*. And Captain Dampier himself said, *It not being mention'd in the Bills of Lading, it could not belong to the Owners, but that it ought to be divided amongst the Men*. But several not consenting to the forcing of it from Mr. Morgan, it came to nothing; as well as several other Contests betwixt those that stay'd with him, and those that came away. Captain Dampier's usual Treatment to every Body, being *Rogue, Rascal, Son of a Bitch*, and other such vulgar Expressions, which was the Occasion of Mr. Bellhass's Quarrel last with him.

On the 26th, we that were for coming away, hail'd the Bark on Board, in order to take our Part of Provisions, which was equally divided, our *Henry Vernon* being appointed for that by Captain Dampier, and *John Dew*, Cooper, for them that were going away. After which, to secure the Owners Interest, and our selves from the Enemy, we took 4 Guns, and 25 or 30 small Arms, some Cases of Pistols, and a Barrel of Powder. Next Morning, we made the best of our Way for the *East-Indies*, without a Boat, Rigging, Cables, or any Thing else fitting for the Sea; and by a greater Providence than what Captain Dampier says, we got safe to *Amboyna*. For his Part, he was a great Pilor, and had been there before, but none of us ever had; and if he could have help'd it, never should; for then he would be sure none could give any Account of his Transactions and Conduct, but the World must have been amuz'd with his Stories. More shall be said of Captain Dampier hereafter, when Occasion requires.

**F I N I S.**



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